

City of Rockville Environment Commission

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall

7:00 pm

1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption

- In attendance: Clark Reed, John Becker, Lea Rosenbohm and staff liaison Erica Shingara.
- The meeting convened at 7:05 by Chair Reed. The October minutes were approved.

2. Environment Commission Report

- Burt Hall, Director of Recreation and Parks, presented reuse opportunities for the City's properties at King Farm by Bikes for the World, Habitat for Humanity and Growing SOUL. The Growing SOUL proposal promotes sustainable agriculture. The Commission invited Growing SOUL to the next meeting to discuss options that will allow all three proposals to jointly use the property and accommodate neighborhood concerns.
- The Commission discussed the Sustainable Maryland Certified program and revised the Community Sustainability Survey. The online survey is planned to be released in January.
- The Commission endorsed the High Performance Building Tax Credit proposal.
- The Commission will continue to prioritize projects identified in the October retreat.

3. Environmental Management Division Report

- SOBO Productions is working with EMD to complete RainScapes Rain Barrel training videos and Recycling "how to" videos. The videos should be available within the next few weeks and a February/March kick-off promotion of the videos is to follow.
- Stream clean-ups were held in October and more are being schedule for April 14, 2012 as part of the annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.
- On November 9, 2011, Rockville held the first public meeting for the current Rock Creek Watershed Study. The meeting highlighted some of the initial findings of the contractor. Thus far, the Rock Creek watershed in Rockville appears to be typical of an urban watershed, and opportunities for large-scale stormwater management may be limited due to the built-out nature of the area. The contractor will now look toward innovative ideas for making improvements in this watershed.

4. Energy Rebates and Incentives

- The Committee discussed rebates and incentives for energy and tree planting for residential properties. During the planning of upgrades to the Americana Centre Condominiums, John Becker indicated that finding incentives for multifamily properties has been challenging. These properties are a hybrid between commercial building codes and residential uses. When developing or enhancing incentive programs, the City should involve this sector.

- Potential incentives identified for multifamily properties include: Chesapeake Bay Trust grants for tree planting, Maryland Clean Energy Center loan program, potential Montgomery County Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, and Pepco commercial rebates.
- The Americana is looking to invest in energy efficiency improvements and could be a potential case study for other multifamily properties in Rockville.

5. Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC)

- A resolution to participate in the SMC program was approved by the Mayor and Council on 10/24. Then the Environment Commission will invite partners and advisors to serve on a Green Team to coordinate a community survey and develop an action plan for certification. Actions and write-ups should be completed by June 1 in order to meet the June 29 submission deadline.
- The Environment Commission has agreed to assist staff in putting together the necessary components for the Sustainable Maryland Certified application. The website (<http://sustainablemaryland.com/actionlist.php>) has criteria and submission requirements for each action. The Committee began working on gathering information for a number of the actions listed under the Energy, Greenhouse Gas sections, Community Action and Local Economies:
 - Maryland Green Schools- Clark Reed described his continued efforts to work with Twinbrook Elementary to gain support for this program.
 - Municipal Energy Audits- Clark Reed & Erica Shingara
 - Residential Energy Efficiency- John Becker
 - Green Business Certification Program- Lea Rosenbohm
 - Maryland Green Registry- Erica Shingara
 - Potential Innovative projects- Green Building and Energy Codes, Green Power Community Challenge, LED street light retrofit.
- Action item: Erica Shingara will invite Doug Weisburger to the next meeting to discuss Montgomery County's Green Business Certification program and partnership opportunities.
- Action item: Members will work on gathering information and writing pieces for each action item. The group should have drafts of their specific topics for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events

- None

7. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, December 20, 2011** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.